

## Defector Tabbed As KGB Officer

Associated Press

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said yesterday that Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge, the Soviet intelligence officer who defected to the west, was an officer of the Soviet secret police.

The issue came up because Moscow denied during the weekend that Runge was attached to the KGB, the Soviet State Security Committee.

Earlier this month when the State Department acknowledged that Runge defected and was now in the United States, officials who could not be identified said that he was a KGB officer.

Yesterday McCloskey, in view of the Soviet denial, put this "on the record."

# What's News—

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## World-Wide

Moscow denounced as a "hoax" the U.S. State Department's "story" that a lieutenant colonel in the Soviet secret police had defected earlier this year. West German officials have said the defector, Lt. Col. Yvgeny Runge, supplied information that led to the smashing of two spy rings in Germany.

## TASS DENIES SPY CHARGE

### Agency Says Defector Was Not In Security Force

Moscow, Oct. 22 (AP)—An official Soviet statement today denied as "a hoax" a United States State Department report last week that a lieutenant colonel in the Soviet secret police had defected to the United States.

The official Soviet news agency, Tass, denied that the defector, identified by the State Department as Lt. Col. Yevgeny Y. Runge, ever served in the Soviet Army or Soviet security forces, but did not comment further.

West German officials have said his defection was instrumental in cracking two spy rings.

#### "Asked For Asylum"

The Tass statement said: "Some time ago, the United States Department of State announced that 'Soviet Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge' had come to the Federal Republic of Germany from the German Democratic Republic and asked for political asylum in the United States.

"Tass has been instructed to state that Runge had never served either in the Soviet Army or in the Soviet Union's security bodies. The story with 'Lt. Col. Runge' is false from beginning to end and is a hoax."

The West German Federal prosecutor, Ludwig Martin, said last Monday that two spy rings were operated by Runge and that they had supplied the Soviet Union with secrets "of a high order."

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## Tass Charges Spymaster Story Is False

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviet Union denied "from beginning to end" Sunday the story about an alleged Soviet spymaster who defected to the United States and gave away the names of a Soviet spy ring working in West Germany.

West German officials recently announced the arrest of five men and women on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. The officials said the five had been named by their former Soviet spymaster, Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge, who had defected to America.

The day following the West German announcement U.S. State Department officials in Washington confirmed that Runge defected to American officials in Germany and had been the key Soviet spy who tipped off the names of his spy ring in West Germany.

"The story about Lt. Col. Runge is false from beginning to end," the Soviet news agency Tass said Sunday.

"Some time ago the United States Department of State announced that Soviet Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge had come to the Federal (West) German Republic and asked for political asylum in America.

"Tass has been instructed to state that Runge never served either in the Soviet army or in the Soviet Union's security bodies."

A short time before the Runge episode, the Soviet Union let it be known that a former British agent had worked for the Soviet Union for 30 years before fleeing to Moscow.

British newspapers printed reports that Harold Philby had been a double agent for 30 years, including the time he was chief liaison man in Washington between British intelligence and the American Central Intelligence Agency.

**Around the World**

# Moscow Claims That Report Of Spy's Defection Is a Hoax

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union, in an unusual departure from policy, yesterday denounced as a "hoax" a report that a Russian spy had defected to the United States after exposing an espionage ring he led in West Germany.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said, "The story about Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge is false from beginning to end . . . Runge never served either in the Soviet army or in the Soviet Union's security bodies." Ordinarily, Moscow maintains strict silence on the arrest of alleged Russian agents.

The U.S. State Department, in announcing Runge's defection last week, identified him as a "high-ranking intelligence officer . . . associated" with the KGB, Russia's main intelligence organization.

West Germany said the spy ring had supplied the Soviet Union with secrets "of a high order."

[In Nuremberg, West Germany, counter-intelligence agents Saturday night arrested a man suspected of being a Communist spy, informed sources said. It was not known if the suspect was connected with the other spy rings.]

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## Washington Background

# Spy and Counterspy In a Queasy World

By JOSEPH C. GOULDEN  
*Inquirer Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON.

**S**IMPLY because intelligence agencies have ways to check such things, the U. S. discovered within several weeks that the new West German clerk in its Berlin office photographed documents when unwatched and carried them into East Berlin.

The clerk wasn't too bright; as an agent, he was a sort of vacuum cleaner, aiming his miniature camera at anything in sight. Since he spoke no English, one of the "secret documents" he delivered was a copy of the office pool on the World Series.

Still, he was a nuisance, and Charlie T——, the U. S. security control officer, thought about the case for a full 45 seconds before turning to his typewriter to dispose of him.

Charlie T—— wrote a glowing report on the value of the information the clerk had furnished the U. S. on the East German intelligence apparatus. He tossed in the name of the agent to whom the clerk was delivering the films, and some remarks the clerk supposedly had made about the agent's stupidity, and asked the higher echelon headquarters for more spurious information to feed the Communists.

Charlie T—— then slipped the report into a file folder on his desk and went to lunch. It was still there when he returned from the gasthaus in midafternoon, and he nodded and smiled at the clerk. That evening the clerk made his regular trip to the East with a roll of undeveloped film.

His next trip, three days later, came on a payday. The U. S. disbursing officer trumped up a yarn about the clerk's check being lost, and apologetically offered to pay him in cash—in U. S. currency, if he preferred.

**K**NOWING the black-market exchange rate, the clerk eagerly accepted, and that night went into East Berlin with more dollars in his pockets than the average postwar German sees in a decade.

The KGB worked on him for six days, according to what our people heard later, and then shot him.

Charlie T—— laughs about this now, for he is no longer in the intelligence business, and he spends a lot of time on his Maryland mountainside drinking gin and tonic and forgetting the nasty pranks he used to play in West Berlin.

Oh, the other side also performed its stunts. One of Charlie T——'s best friends was an agent control officer who recruited and directed Germans who spied on the U. S.

This friend went to meet an agent one night at a place that is supposed to be a "safe house," where visitors can come and go undetected.

The man's wife wasn't surprised when he didn't come home, because intelligence people keep irregular hours. She glanced out the rear window while making coffee and saw an Army duffel bag hanging on a tree in the yard.

That's odd, she thought, and went to inspect it. All it contained was her husband's garrotted body, mutilated in somewhat obscene fashion.

**T**HE woman, seven months pregnant, miscarried two days later. The last time Charlie T—— tried to talk to her she didn't hear him, for she sat in a mental hospital in a catatonic trance, her mind empty of all but that duffel bag.

But intelligence officers must not let such memories bother them, for that would be unprofessional. Thus CIA agents this week light cigarettes for Lt. Col. Yegveny Yevgenovich Runge, and make sure he has enough hot spiced tea, and laugh at his little jokes.

Of course, Runge hasn't seen much of America—a glimpse of Andrews Air Force Base when his jet arrived from West Germany the other day, 24 hours after his defection, and maybe a peek at the Baltimore-Washington Parkway as the CIA car took him to the very special place on the Fort Meade reservation saved for very special KGB officers who want to be on our side.

The CIA interrogators laugh and pour tea and light cigarettes because Runge gives them information—but everyone there, including Runge, thinks of that duffel bag, or its equivalent, and says nothing of it. That would be unprofessional.

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## Red Defector May Be Here

Washington, Oct. 17 (UPI)—Lt. Col. Yegveniy Yevgenevich Runge, the latest Soviet intelligence officer to defect to the West, is believed to be in the Washington or New York areas with his wife and child.

The former agent of the Soviet secret service probably has been in the United States for about a week undergoing interrogation by the Central Intelligence Agency at a secret hide-away, it was learned authoritatively today.

It appears that Runge was flown to the United States shortly after he asked asylum of American authorities in West Germany about 10 days ago. Five persons were arrested as alleged Soviet spies in Germany as a result of information furnished by Runge.

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# Defection of Spy Linked to Son's Future

BY TOM LAMBERT

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Concern for his small son was responsible in some degree for a Russian spy-master's decision to defect to the United States recently in West Germany, it was learned Tuesday.

The Russian, identified as Soviet KGB (secret police) Lt. Col. Yevgeniy Y. Runge, reportedly was operating in West Germany as an "illegal"—under a false name and at a bogus job, neither as yet disclosed — when he asked American officials earlier this month for political asylum.

Runge, now in the United States with his wife and young son and being questioned by American interrogators, reportedly has said he defected because he felt his boy could enjoy a better life and more opportunities in the West than in the Soviet Union.

There is no indication, it was learned reliably, that Runge's defection was prompted by financial or other troubles with the KGB.

## Unusually Knowledgeable

Although several other KGB lieutenant colonels reportedly have defected to the United States in recent years, Runge's rank and his employment as an "illegal" suggest he may be one of the most knowledgeable Soviet spies to desert the Kremlin in some time.

On defecting, Runge reportedly told his interrogators about two long established and heretofore apparently highly successful west German-based Soviet spy rings, one centered in the west German

other connected with the French Embassy in Bonn.

West German police reportedly have arrested five members of the French Embassy and Foreign Ministry rings, the former believed to have been in existence for nine and the latter for seven years.

A West German Foreign Office secretary, jailed as a suspected member of the latter ring, hanged herself with her pajamas early Sunday in the Cologne Women's Reformatory.

Runge apparently was

passing to Moscow information received from their members.

Runge's defection marks the second known blow suffered by the KGB since Yuri Andropov took over command of the intelligence agency earlier this year. Andropov is a secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

On Sept. 9, South African police announced the arrest of Yuri N. Loginov, describing him as a KGB agent who had admitted espionage connections in

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## KEY SOVIET AGENT ASKS U.S. ASYLUM

Defector, Officer in K.G.B.,  
Was Serving in Europe

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 (Reuters) — The State Department said today that a high-ranking Soviet intelligence officer had defected to the West and was now in the United States.

The department said that the officer had been serving in Germany, but there was no indication whether he had been based in East Germany or had operated as an undercover agent in West Germany.

The disclosure followed an announcement in Bonn during the weekend that five persons had been arrested by the West German police as espionage suspects. Reports from Bonn said that they had been betrayed by a "Soviet spy master" who defected to the United States.

### He Requests Asylum

The State Department identified the defector as Lieut. Col. Yevgeny Runge but did not directly link him to the German spy ring.

A spokesman said that Colonel Runge had requested asylum. His whereabouts is being kept secret, apparently while he is being questioned by American counterintelligence agents.

The State Department refused to divulge further details, but officials said the defection to the United States authorities took place in Germany a week or two ago and that Colonel Runge has been "associated" with the K.G.B., the Soviet State Security Committee.

The importance of the defection for United States intelligence could not be immediately assessed, although the rank of lieutenant colonel is one of the senior ranks in the Soviet intelligence service.

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